

SENATE BILL 73

Q7
SB 625/14 – B&T

5lr1389
CF 5lr1388

By: **Senator Feldman**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2015

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission on Tax Policy, Reform, and Fairness**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission on Tax Policy, Reform, and Fairness;
4 specifying the membership of the Commission; providing for the appointment of a
5 Senate cochair and House cochair of the Commission; providing for the staffing of
6 the Commission; prohibiting a member of the Commission from receiving certain
7 compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the
8 Commission to study, consider, and make recommendations regarding certain
9 matters; requiring the Commission to report its findings and recommendations to
10 the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the
11 termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Commission on Tax Policy,
12 Reform, and Fairness.

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
14 That:

15 (a) There is a Commission on Tax Policy, Reform, and Fairness.

16 (b) The Commission consists of the following members:

17 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
18 the Senate;

19 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
20 the House;

21 (3) the Comptroller of the Treasury, or the Comptroller's designee;

22 (4) the Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary's designee;

23 (5) a representative of the Maryland Association of Counties;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (6) a representative of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce;

2 (7) a representative of the Maryland Municipal League;

3 (8) a representative of the State Department of Assessments and Taxation,
4 designated by the Director of Assessments and Taxation;

5 (9) a representative of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce;

6 (10) one economist, appointed by the Governor;

7 (11) one member of the faculty of the University of Maryland School of
8 Public Policy, appointed by the Governor;

9 (12) one member of the faculty of the University of Maryland Robert H.
10 Smith School of Business, appointed by the Governor; and

11 (13) two members of the public, each of whom shall be an attorney at law or
12 an accountant knowledgeable about the State's tax structure, appointed by the Governor.

13 (c) (1) The President of the Senate shall designate one of the members
14 appointed from the Senate of Maryland as cochair of the Commission.

15 (2) The Speaker of the House shall designate one of the members appointed
16 from the House of Delegates as cochair of the Commission.

17 (d) The Office of the Comptroller and the Department of Budget and Management
18 shall provide staff for the Commission.

19 (e) A member of the Commission:

20 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but

21 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
22 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

23 (f) The Commission shall:

24 (1) study the current revenue structure of the State, including income,
25 sales, corporate, motor fuel, excise, and property taxes, tax exemptions and credits, and
26 fees;

27 (2) review the academic and economic research on state and local tax policy
28 to assist in the overall assessment of efficacy, fairness, and competitiveness of the current
29 revenue structure of the State;

1 (3) review the revenue structure of neighboring jurisdictions for the
2 purpose of evaluating the regional competitiveness of the State's tax structure;

3 (4) consider the nature of the State's economy and the importance of service
4 and professional businesses to economic development;

5 (5) consider whether or not the current revenue structure of the State
6 should be reformed, modified, and modernized; and

7 (6) make recommendations regarding changes to the State's revenue
8 structure that:

9 (i) promote job growth and economic development;

10 (ii) ensure fairness, simplicity, and transparency;

11 (iii) provide a stable, balanced, and reliable revenue stream, while
12 not reducing services; and

13 (iv) create a business friendly environment.

14 (g) On or before December 1, 2016, the Commission shall report its findings and
15 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
16 Government Article, the General Assembly.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
18 1, 2015. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2017,
19 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and
20 of no further force and effect.